

Claims

1           1.     A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or  
2 services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

3                 a customer depositing cash with a depository, said depository being  
4 independent of said customer such that the identity of said customer remains  
5 anonymous, the depository issuing to the customer a serial number  
6 corresponding to the amount of cash deposited therewith; and

7                 submitting the serial number to the on-line merchant to purchase goods  
8 or services, said on-line merchant and said depository being unable to identify  
9 said customer during said purchase.

1           2.     A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or  
2 services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:

3                 a customer depositing an amount of monies with a seller, said seller  
4 informing a server of the amount of monies received from said customer, said  
5 customer, seller and server each being independent of each other such that the  
6 identity of said customer remains anonymous;

7                 said server issuing to said customer a serial number corresponding to  
8 the amount of monies deposited with seller; and

9                 said customer submitting the serial number to a on-line merchant to  
10 purchase goods or services.

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- 1           3.     The method of claim 2, further including the step of said server,
- 2     upon receipt of information from said seller of the amount of monies seller
- 3     received from said customer, electronically transfers an amount of monies from
- 4     an account of said seller to a second account.

AMENDED SHEET

1           4.     The method of claim 3, further including the step of said server  
2     electronically transfers an amount of monies from said second account to an  
3     account of said on-line merchant.

1           5.     The method of claim 2, further including the step of said on-line  
2     merchant, upon receipt of said serial number submitted by said customer,  
3     transmits said serial number to said server for authentication.

1           6.     The method of claim 2, wherein said amount of monies  
2     deposited with said seller is in the form of cash.

1           7.     A method according to claim 2, further including the step of  
2     providing a computer readable form having the serial numbers corresponding  
3     to the amount of funds deposited therewith disposed thereon.

1           8.     A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or  
2     services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:  
3             a customer depositing an amount of monies with a seller, said seller  
4     informing a server of the amount of monies received from said customer;  
5             said server issuing to said customer a serial number corresponding to  
6     the amount of monies customer deposited with seller, said serial number  
7     comprising information about said customer's age; and

8           said customer submitting the serial number to an on-line merchant to  
9   purchase goods or services.

1           9.     A method for a customer to anonymously purchase goods or  
2   services from an on-line merchant, said method comprising the steps of:  
3           a customer depositing cash with a depository, the depository issuing to  
4   the customer a serial number corresponding to the amount of cash deposited  
5   therewith, said serial number comprising information about said customer's  
6   age; and  
7           submitting the serial number to the on-line merchant to purchase goods  
8   or services.